REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed November 18, 2003, claims 14, 15 and 17 have been amended. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15, 17 and 19 are now active in this application, of which claims 1, 5 and 15 are independent.

Entry of the Amendments and Remarks is respectfully requested because entry of Amendment places the present application in condition for allowance, or in the alternative, better form for appeal. No new matters are believed to be added by these Amendments. Based on the above Amendments and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding objections and rejections and they be withdrawn.

Claim Objection

In the Office Action, claim 14 have been objected to for inappropriate dependency. This objection is respectfully traversed. In this response, claim 14 has been amended to be dependent from claim 11. Thus, withdrawal of the objection imposed on claim 14 is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 15, 17 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,625,415 issued to Ueno, *et al.* ("Ueno") in view of France Patent Application Publication No. 2674036 issued to Mrejen ("Mrejen"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to independent claims 1 and 5, Applicant previously argued that Ueno and Mrejen fail to disclose or suggest the focus control means compressing the image data stored in

the first memory unit (or first image store means) and storing the compressed image data in the second memory unit (or second image store means).

In this regard, the Examiner stated that "Ueno reference discloses the control circuit (138) for performing compression (reduction) processing in which a size of an image represented by the image data stored in the frame memory (136 as the first memory unit) is compressed to one-eighth, ..." (Office Action, page 2).

It is respectfully submitted that compression is different from size reduction. Compression means "The process of eliminating gaps, empty fields, redundancies and unnecessary data to the shorten the length of records or blocks" (Page 129, IBM Dictionary of Computing, Tenth Edition, August 1993). Thus, when a compress image file is decompressed, the image file is identical to the original file before compression.

Reducing the size of an image is known as resizing. Once an image file is resized to one eighth, the file is permanently altered and can never be identical to the original file before resizing. It is respectfully submitted that "compression" described in the claimed invention is substantially different from "resizing" described in Ueno.

Since none of the cited references disclose or suggest the claimed feature of compressing the image data stored in the first memory unit (or first image store means) and storing the compressed image data in the second memory unit (or second image store means), independent claims 1 and 5 are patentable over them. Dependent claims 4, 7, 8, 11 that are dependent from claims 1 and 5

Independent claim 15, which is a process claim, has been amended to recite the invention more accurately. Claim 15 recites "(g) compressing the digital image data; (h) storing the compressed digital image data; and (i) restoring the compressed digital image data as needed".

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As previously mentioned, none of the cited references discloses or suggest these claimed features. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 15 is patentable over them. Claims 17 and 19 that are dependent from claim 15 would be also patentable at least for the same reason.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection over claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 15, 17 and 19 be withdrawn.

Other Matters

In this response, claim 14 has been amended to correct the informality therein. Claim 14 is dependent from claim 5. As previously mentioned, independent claim 5 is believed to be patentable over the cited references. Thus, Applicant believes that claim 14 is also patentable at least for the same reason.
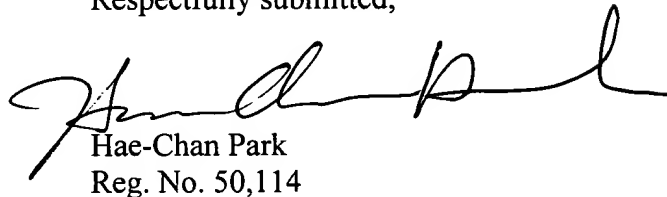
CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15, 17 and 19 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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